

ational Application No PCT/EP2004/013032

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER IPC 7 G03G15/08

Express Mail No.: EV84285005345

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC Mailed: 23 MAR 2006 **B. FIELDS SEARCHED** Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols) IPC 7 G03G Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used) EPO-Internal, PAJ C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT Relevant to claim No. Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages Category ° PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN 1,2,4,8, X 11-13 vol. 1999, no. 03, 31 March 1999 (1999-03-31) & JP 10 326051 A (RICOH CO LTD), 8 December 1998 (1998-12-08) paragraph '0026! - paragraph '0033! 1,5,7,8, US 4 505 573 A (BREWINGTON ET AL) X 19 March 1985 (1985-03-19) column 3, line 60 - column 8, line 17; figure 2 1,2,4, US 4 958 193 A (NOJIMA ET AL) X 10,13 18 September 1990 (1990-09-18) the whole document -/--Patent family members are listed in annex. Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Special categories of cited documents: "I" later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance invention earlier document but published on or after the international "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention filing date cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified) involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art. O document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed \*&\* document member of the same patent family Date of the actual completion of the international search Date of mailing of the international search report 14/03/2005 7 March 2005 Authorized officer Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2

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